

concert music

Xavier's New Friends
for Percussion Quintet and Narrator

peter gilbert

Xavier's New Friends

for Percussion Quintet & Narrator

Story by Peter Gilbert & Jacquir LaFond

Commissioned by the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra & Kennedy Center Education

Player 1: Xylophone

Player 2: Bongos, Splash Cymbal, Vibraslap

Player 3: Tom-toms, Suspended Cymbal

Player 4: Snare Drum, Chinese Cymbal, Slapstick

Player 5: Bass Drum, Sizzle Cymbal, Glockenspiel

Program Note:

Xavier's New Friends is an educational work designed to bring the fun of the percussion family to an early elementary audience. This relatable story is told by a narrator and brought to life by instruments.

The story centers around a naive xylophone named Xavier who learns over the course of the piece that there is more to music than just melody. Other instrumental characters teach him about different musical concepts (such as rhythm, tempo and dynamics) and show him how different types of instruments can make music in their own special ways. But the most important thing he learns is that the real fun begins when you can all play together!

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Xavier's New Friends

for Percussion Quartet and Narrator

Peter Gilbert
with text by Peter Gilbert & Jacquir LaFond

Narrator: Hi everyone, I'm _____ and this is Xavier the xylophone. Xavier is a musical instrument who plays the best melodies, and in a second, we're going to get to hear Xavier play! But first, I want to tell you the story of how, once upon a time, Xavier came to learn that the world of music is a much bigger world than he had ever imagined.

When Xavier first came to _____ he had just moved to a new neighborhood and he hadn't made any friends yet. In his old neighborhood he was friends with cellos, trombones, flutes, and all other kinds of melodic instruments. Xavier loved when he and his old friends used to get together and play music. He missed his old friends, and he wished he had some to play with in his new neighborhood!

Narrator: But Xavier just stayed inside and practiced his favorite tunes.

Xylophone

$\text{♩} = 116$

mf

ff

8^{va}

7

Xylo.

12

Narr.

Xylo.

Xavier even made up a special tune that was all his own, and he called it Xavier's Melody. It took a while for him to write it and like any musician, Xavier had to practice... **A** ...and practice

Relaxed ($\text{♩} = 84$)

mf

18

Narr.

Xylo.

...and play parts over and over

...and slow the harder parts down.

It was really hard work to practice

and sometimes Xavier even lost his temper.

slower

22

Narr.

Xylo.

But after practicing over and over again, Xavier finally learned to play his melody pretty well.

sffz

mf

a tempo

Xavier's New Friends

Narrator: Even though he could play his melody well now, there was something missing from Xavier's song.

28 **B** He couldn't figure out what it was so he decided to take a walk around the neighborhood and see if there were any other instruments who would want to join him. Maybe they could tell him the what his song was missing. As he left the house, he met the small girl who lived next door

Casual (♩ = 96)

Xylo. *mp*

Narr. Xavier said hello.

32 She replied, "Hi there! My name's Sally Slipstick."

Slapstick

1 *mf*

"Hi there Sally," Xavier said to the slapstick, "I'm Xavier!"

"Is that you I've heard playing music next door?" said Sally.

"Yes it is! I even wrote some of it myself." Xavier proudly proclaimed. "Wow!" said Sally.

"I've never written a song of my own. Would you play yours for me?" Sally asked.

"I'd love to," said Xavier. He got himself really focused, took a deep breath, and played his song.

C Relaxed (♩ = 84)

35 *mf*

38 *mf*

41

Narr. Sally was really impressed with Xavier's piece.

Xylo. *f*

Xavier's New Friends

45

Narr. "Bravo!" said Sally.

"You're so talented! It must be fun to play music like that. You're so lucky. I wish I could make a song of my very own." "It is fun!" replied Xavier, "and it just takes lots of practice. I'm looking to make mine better though, there's something it still needs. Maybe if you tried playing a song for me, I'll get inspired! Just think of a melody and try to find the first note."

Xavier wasn't sure that sound was music at all. He said: "Hmm, okay. That was a good start but I don't think it was a melody. It didn't have any notes!" "Oh," said Sally, "Well, let me try again."

Sally..."

Xylo. Slapstick

Slap energetically

Slap more vigorously

mf *f* *ff*

D

50

Narr. "Sally..."

"SALLY!"

You're still not playing any notes. That's not what I need for my song!" Xavier said. "Hey...I tried!" Sally cried. And she ran back inside. "Wait, Sally," Xavier tried to yell after her, but she had already slammed the door.

Xavier felt bad and thought he might have hurt her feelings, even though he didn't mean to.

Xylo. *f* *ff* *p*

ff

54

E

Narr. "Wait, who's that coming down the street?" he suddenly thought.

"It looks

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

pp *mp*

59

Narr. like a couple of drums!"

Xavier forgot all about Sally Slapstick and ran to see who they were.

Maybe they could play along with him!

Xylo. *mf*

mf

Xavier's New Friends

F

63 **Narr.** "Hi there, I'm Xavier the Xylophone." "Sam Snaredrum here," the first stranger said. "D'is over here is my pal Big Beth the Bass Drum. Beth doesn't say much. Do you, Beth?" "See, just like I told ya," Sam went on. "So what's your deal Mr. Xavier?" "Well," answered Xavier, "I'm a musician." "Is zat right?" said Sam, "What kind of thing do you play?" he asked Xavier. "Well all kinds, but today I just made a song of my own for the first time. Can I play it for you?" Sam said, "Might be inta'restin',

Xylo. $\bullet = 144$
mf

3 Snare Drum
mf

4 Bass Drum
mf

p *mf* *f*

Xylo. Relaxed ($\bullet = 84$)
mf

G

72 **Narr.** "Well hey that was pretty good there kid." said Sam Snaredrum. "Not bad for a rookie" said Beth the Bass. "Thanks a lot," said Xavier, "I'm looking for other musicians to play with to make it better. Have you seen any around?" "What da ya mean, have I seen any musicians around?!" "Beth, can you believe this yahoo? Listen here, Mini Mozart..." "Hehe, Mini Mozart." Beth chuckled to herself. Sam went on: "You happen to be looking at two of the finest musicians in this town." "Oh, I'm sorry!" exclaimed Xavier, "I didn't realize you two were musicians. How cool!" "Didn't realize?" said Sam

3 Scrape with wire brushes
mp

4 *mf*

(Rim-shot)
mf *f* *f*

mf

(Rim-shot)

Xavier's New Friends

77

Narr. "What da we look like, here? Librarians? Of course we're musicians. Beth and I just happen to be the neighborhood's foremost authorities on the march, see." "Yah, the march," said Beth.

"So you also play notes and harmonies?" asked Xavier. "Nope, that's not our forte. We're percussion instruments! We make a different kind of music." Sam replied. "Beth, I think we better show this kid a new thing or two."

Xylo. *mf*

3 *f* Brisk (♩ = 126) *mf*

4 *f*

81

Narr. "Wait Sam, I have a question," Xavier said. "How do you all play music without notes? How do you make a melody?" "I'm glad you asked." Sam replied. "We make our melodies using rhythm. You see it starts with a beat. Why don't you show him Beth?"

"and we take turns playing on-the-beat and then off-the-beat, back and forth... like this:"

Xylo. *f*

3 *f*

4 *mp*

Vamp until narration text is finished

♩ = 104

85

Narr. "You see," said Sam, "that movement back and forth from the 'on-beat' to the 'off-beat' creates its own kind of melody - a melody of rhythms instead of notes like F-sharps or B-flats."

"WOW!" said Xavier. "I didn't know you could make music without notes!"

And you can do a whole piece like that?" Sam smiled and said, "Oh just you watch, my friend! Ready, Beth?"

"I am, Sam. Why don't you start us off

Xylo. *f*

3 *f*

4 *f*

Xavier's New Friends

I ♩ = 104

Snare Drum

89 (Clicks)

3

4

f

Bass Drum

f

94

(Rim-shot)

3

4

f

J

99

3

4

mf

f

103

3

4

sp

sp

107

Narr.

3

4

f

ff

f

ff

"Hey!" said Xavier. "That was really music. And you didn't need any notes at all."
"That's right kid." said Sam. "There are all kinds a' ways to make music. You should ask other people around town, but this parade's gotta keep heading down the street. See ya later kid." And with that Sam and Beth marched off.

110 Xavier's New Friends

Narr. Xavier hadn't gone very far before he heard what sounded like more drums.

3 *mf* *pp*

4 *mf* *pp*

116 **K** Soon he discovered another group of instruments playing music. And they weren't playing any melodies either.

1 = 104 *accel...* Bongos *p* (*♩ = 112*)

2 2 Low Toms *p*

124 ...*accel...* "Maybe this music is like what Sam and Beth played," thought Xavier. "Even without any pitches, it's still good."

1 (*♩ = 120*) (*♩ = 132*) *mp*

2 *mp*

132 These folks sounded great, but it was different from Sam and Beth's march. Xavier decided to find out more about these instruments. As he got closer Xavier saw that there were four strangers. Two of them were twins and the other two...were ALSO twins. The first pair of twins introduced themselves.

Narr. **L** "Hello," they both said at the same time. "We're Bonnie and Betty Bongo. Nice to meet you."

1 ...*♩ = 144* *f* *sf/ mp*

2 *f*

138 Xavier said, "Nice to meet you Bonnie and Betty. I'm Xavier." Then the second pair of twins said, "Thomas and Thomas Tom-Tom. Pleased to meet you." Xavier was confused. "You're both named Thomas Tom-tom?" he asked. "That's right," the one on the left replied, "but you can call me Tom... to make it easier"

Narr. *mf*

Xylo. *mf*

2 Toms *mf*

Narr. That was more "Toms" than Xavier had met in his whole life. Xavier asked them, "That music you all were playing was really exciting, but it didn't have a melody. How do you do it?" Bonnie and Betty Bongo answered: "Well, we like to play around with with the tempo of our music, how fast or slow it goes. You can make the tempo go slower and slower, or you can speed it up. Why don't you show him Tom?"

M "Tom and Thomas like to see just how fast they can push the tempo

Grooving (♩ = 96) accel...

Toms

Narr. said the Bongo twins. "But as the music gets faster and faster, things get more and more hectic! Hey! Wait for us!" the Bongo twins shouted.

mf

... (♩ = 120) ...

N ... (♩ = 132) ...

154 Bongos

mf

161

mf

... (♩ = 176) ...

168

mf

... (♩ = 192) ...

0 ♩ = 96 accel...

f

Narr. Xavier applauded and cheered for their performance.

Xylo.

mf

... (♩ = 144) ...

4x

... (♩ = 180) ...

♩ = 104

f

Xavier's New Friends

Narrator: This was great. He was learning SO much about other people's music. "Thanks so much for playing for me Bonnie, Betty, Thomas and Tom, Tom...tom! "Hey, any time Xavier! Thanks for listening." replied the twins. "I would love to play more with you one day" Xavier said,

182

Narr. and he walked off in search of more new friends. He still didn't know what his song needed, but he felt like he was closer to finding out. He walked around for a while until he discovered a group of instruments making sounds he'd never heard before.

Casual (♩=60)

Xylo.

mp

186

Narr. **P** Xavier thought to himself: "More new instruments?" First drums making music with just rhythm and then bongos and Tommy Tom-toms changing tempos... what's next?!" As Xavier approached, he saw that the musicians making these new sounds were a group of cymbals!

The band leader came over and introduced herself. "Hi there," she said. "I'm Zildjian Sabian Avedis Norwell the Third."

♩ = 60
Splash

1 *p* *mp*
Sus.Cym. Quietly improvise small swells, taps or scrapes. Fade out as narration moves to next measure.

2 *p* *pp*
Chinese Cym. Quietly improvise small swells, taps or scrapes. Fade out as narration moves to next measure.

3 *p* *pp*
Sizzle Quietly improvise small swells, taps or scrapes. Fade out as narration moves to next measure.

4 *p* *pp*

190

Narr. "But my friends just call me SPLASH." This is my band Splash & the Crashes. Are you here to hear us play? "Hi," Xavier said. "I'm curious to hear how you all make your music. Do you use rhythm and tempo?" Splash replied, "That's part of it for sure. But we can also use other cool tricks. We can make sounds as big as the waves of the ocean. Why do you think they call me SPLASH?" "You see we use dynamics. We make small quiet sounds that grow into huge loud sounds and then back again, like an ocean wave. Let's take this little guy to the beach!"

♩ = 72

Xylo.

1 *ff* *f*

2 *Shocked, frozen*

3 *Shocked, frozen*

4 *Shocked, frozen*

Xavier's New Friends

Q


194 ♩ = 72

Narrator: Xavier thought this was fantastic. "So," he asked, "You got louder and softer and louder and softer. Those were your dynamics right?" "You got it!" said Splash. "Wow," said Xavier, "that's a new part of music I've never considered. I kind of drowned in the sound and then the music crashed into me!" "That's right," said Splash, "that's why we call our band Splash & the Crashes." "Awesome!" said Xavier, "Do you think I could do dynamics too?" "Sure," said Splash, "don't worry about the notes so much and think about giving your sound a shape." So Xavier tried it.

Narrator: Splash said, "The little guy gets it! We're having a play-along at the park in an hour. Maybe we'll see you there." "That'd be awesome," said Xavier, "Thanks! See you later" Xavier let the cymbals practice and kept walking.

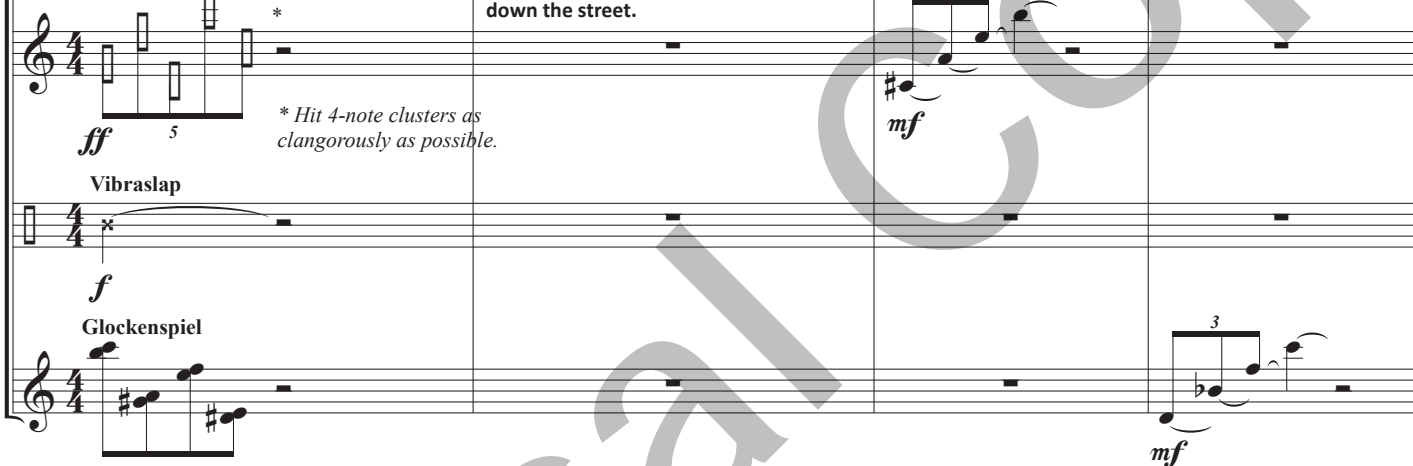
Xavier's New Friends

205 Narr. He couldn't stop thinking about all the different kinds of music he had learned about. He had met Sam Snaredrum and Beth, who played melodies with rhythms on and off the beat. He'd met Bonnie and Betty Bongo and Tom and Thomas Tom-Tom, and they showed him how to make music exciting by making the tempo faster and faster. And he just met a band of cymbals, who could make huge and small sounds like the waves by changing their dynamics! He had so many new techniques to try out. One of them had to complete his song! Xavier's mind was so busy thinking about these new concepts that he didn't see a new stranger coming along and...

Xylo. 

p repeat until the narration text is finished and then move immediately on regardless of position in the phrase

209 Narr. **S** ...he crashed right into her!

Xylo. 

ff * Hit 4-note clusters as clangorously as possible.

Vibraslap *f*

Glockenspiel *ff*

2 *f*

4 *ff*

Xavier quickly apologized, "Oh my gosh, I'm so sorry.

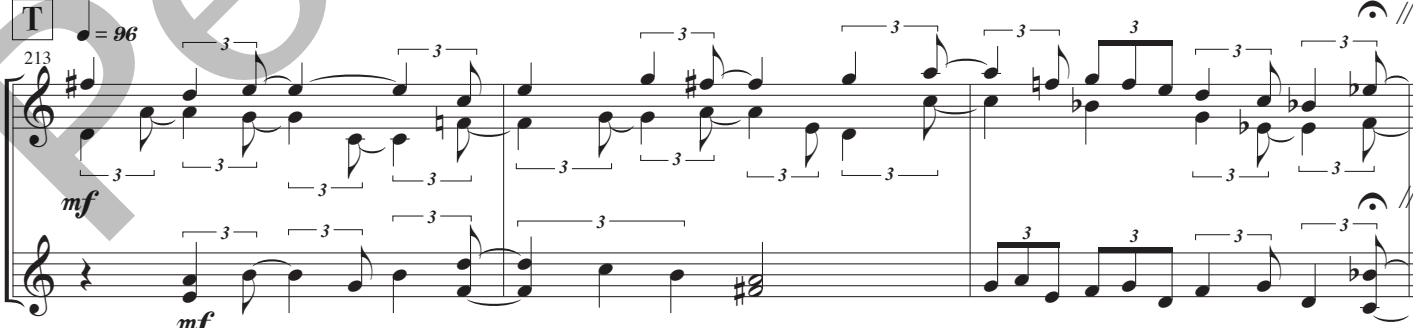
Are you O.K.?" She replied, "I'm fine, don't worry about it! Are you new to the neighborhood?" "I am," Xavier replied, "I just moved a few blocks down the street.

"I'm Xavier Xylophone."

"Well, I'm Gloria. Gloria Glockenspiel. It's nice to...run into you," she said.

mf *mf*

Narrator: "Glad to run into you too, sorry about that again. I've been meeting so many cool new instruments on my walk, and they've all taught me so much about music. I'm trying to find as many musicians as I can so I can find an end to my song." Gloria replied, "Well you're in luck because, guess what? I'm a musician too! In fact, I've been hoping to find some more people to play melodies with. Do you know any melodies?" "I do! I do!" Xavier shouted in excitement. "I've been looking for ways to improve my song. The drums and cymbals have been great, but finally someone who can play notes." Xavier played his song and Gloria played a counter-melody, a melody of her own to go along with Xavier's.

213 Xylo. **T** *mf* 

mf

Xavier's New Friends

216

Narr. They were having a great time playing together, but after a while, Xavier began to remember his day. He had a lot of fun earlier today with the other instruments, hearing cool rhythms, exciting tempos and ocean-like dynamics. Suddenly Xavier thought of Splash & the Crashes' play-along in the park.

Xylo. *mp*

Glockenspiel *mp*

molto accel.

repeat until very fast

f

221

Narr. "Hey, Gloria" over in the park? Cymbals before." a lot of fun to their sound. But what...you're "Amazing!" said I've got to round up
Xavier said, "I'm not sure," "Well, they're really nice" said make music with their sound. But right," Gloria said, "I'll see some other friends
"Do you want to go play with some cymbals" Gloria said, hesitating. "I've never played with Cymbals before." a lot of fun to make music with them. Our song would sound awesome with I'd feel way more confident if you played with me." "You know" right," Gloria exclaimed, "Let's make some music!" Xavier, "I'll see you there in just a minute." "I've got to round up some other friends first. You're not gonna regret this!"

Xylo. *f* *p* *mp*

♩ = 104

Vamp until narrator moves on
Bongos and Toms should highlight
their lines when referred to in text.

229

Narr. **U** Xavier took off running. He found Tom and Tom Tom-tom and Bonnie and Betty Bongo and they agreed to meet him at the park. Then he found Sam Snaredrum and Beth Bass Drum marching around the post-office, and they also agreed to go.

Xylo. *p* *pp* *pp*

1 Bongos *Improvise as is appropriate* *p*

2 Toms *From 2x on* *p* *pp*

3 Snare Drum *pp* *3* *3*

4 Sizzle *From 3x on* *p* *pp* *pp*

Bass Drum *pp*

Xavier's New Friends

232

Narr. "I'll meet you all at the park," Xavier said, "I've got one more person to find." Xavier ran all the way to Sally Slapstick's house. He wanted her to come to the play-along most of all! He knocked on her door.

Xylo.

Bongos

1

2

Toms

3

Snare Drum

4

Bass Drum

pp

p

f

Wood Block

f

Narrator: Sally Slapstick answered, but she wasn't sure she wanted to play at the park. Xavier could tell she was hesitant to play music with other people again and told her he was really sorry he'd hurt her feelings that morning. "I've learned a lot about different instruments and music today," he said, "and I was so wrong about what I said earlier! You can help make the best song ever? Would you come with me to the park?" "Thanks, Xavier." Sally could tell Xavier meant it, but she still felt insecure. "I really would like to play along with you... if you think I can make good music."

235

Narr. "Of course! You can make great music Sally!" said Xavier excitedly. "Listen to that! Can you hear everyone getting warmed-up? Let's go play with them!" Xavier and Sally ran to the park,

• = 60

Sus.Cym.

2

3

4

pp

Chinese Cym.

mp

pp

mp

Sizzle

pp

mp

Xavier's New Friends

239

Narr. **V** and as they got closer, the sound grew louder. They got to the park and all the instruments were so happy to see them!

Bongos
• = 84
pp *p* *mp*

Toms
pp *p* *mp*

Chinese Cym.
mp

Snare Drum
mp

Sizzle
mp

Bass Drum
mp

(♩ = 63)

Splash

245

mf *f* *mp*

mf *f* *mp*

Sus.Cym.
mp

Chinese Cym.
mf *f* *mp*

mf *f* *mp*

mf *f* *mp*

Xavier's New Friends

250

W

Narr. Xavier called out, "Hi everybody! I want you to meet my friend, Sally Slapstick." "Hi, Sally!" said everyone Sally looked shy. "I'm sorry, I don't think I can really play along. I can only make one sound. I can't make it go softer or quieter or play any notes really" she said sadly. "Aww enough of that talk. Show us what you got," said Splash. Sam Snaredrum followed with "Yeah let's hear this one sound of yours." "Hey, that's it!" said Splash,

Xylo.

1 Bongos *f*

2 Sus.Cym. Toms *f*

3 Chinese Cym. Snare Drum *f* Slapstick

4 Bass Drum *mf*

Narrator: "That's just the sound we've been looking for—a really big bang to get our jam session started." "It's perfect Sally!" shouted Xavier. "But I don't know what to play," worried Sally. "When we can't think of anything we just play the rhythm of our names." said the bongo twins.

254

Narr. "Bonnie and Betty" "Bon - go" "So just try to play your name," the twins said. "Ok." Sally took a deep breath and tried, "Sal-ly" "Slap-stick"

Xylo.

1 Bongos *f*

3 Slapstick *mf* *f*

Narrator: "That was great!" said Splash, smiling. "Why don't you get us started, just like that. And this time we'll all join in with you." Sally looked around and saw how excited everyone was to play with her, and she got to start the song! "Okay," said the slapstick, "Here I go..."

Xavier's New Friends

Narr. Energetic (♩=176) And off she went, and everyone followed!

Xylo.

1 Bongos *f* Splash *pp* 5

2 Toms *f* *pp* 5

3 Slapstick *ff*

4 Sizzle *f* Bass Drum *p sub.*

Narr. They made a great song, gathered together in the park.

Xylo.

1 *fp* *f*

2 *fp* *f*

3 *ff*

4 *pp* *fp* *f*

Xavier's New Friends

268

Xylo.

Splash

1

Sus.Cym.

2

Sizzle

3

4

pp *fp*

p sub. *pp*

Y Grooving (♩ = 138)

273

Xylo.

1

2

3

4

mf *p*

f *pp*

f *p*

f

fp *f*

Z

Xavier's New Friends

279 2x

Xylo. *mf* *p*

1 Bongsos: *f* **Improvise solo**

2 Toms *mf* *p*

3 Slapstick *mp* *p*

4 Bass Drum *p* *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

285

Xylo. *p*

1 *p*

2 *p*

3 *p*

4 *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Xavier's New Friends

291

AA

Narr. Let's hear it for Bonnie and Betty Bongo!

3x

Xylo. *f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *f*

1. *Splash* *p* *f* *p*

2. *mf* *p*

3. Snare Drum: Improvise duo with Bass Drum *f*

4. Bass Drum: Improvise duo with Snare Drum *f*

Xylo. *p* *f* *p* *f*

1. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

2. *f* *p* *f*

3. *f* *p* *f*

4. *f* *p* *f*

Xavier's New Friends

302

Narr.

How about some applause

for Sam Snaredrum

& Big Beth the Bass Drum!

Xylo. *mf* *f* *p*

Splash *mf*

1

Toms *mf*

2

3

4 *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p*

306

Xylo. *mf* *p* *mf*

Bongos *mf*

1

2

3

4 *mf* *pp* *mp*

Bass Drum *mp*

Xavier's New Friends

310

Xylo. *p*

1 *p*

2 *f*
Toms: **Improvise solo**

3 *p*
Chinese Cym.

4

314

Narr. Tom and Thomas Tom-Tom! And I think we better give Xavier and Gloria a turn

Xylo. *p* *f* *pp*

1 *mp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

2 *pp* *mf*

3 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

4 *p* *f* *p*

Glockenspiel

Xavier's New Friends

CC Poco a poco accel... (speeding up each repeat)

Improvise solo

318 3x

D maj C maj D maj B-flat maj7

Xylo. *f*

1 Bongos *p*

2 Sus.Cym. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

3 Chinese Cym. *p*

4 Glockenspiel *f*

323

E-flat maj 7 A-flat maj 7 D-flat maj 7 C maj

Xylo.

1

2 *mp* *pp* *mp*

3

4

Xavier's New Friends

327

Narr. Let' hear it for Gloria and Xavier

DD $\bullet = 176$

2x

Xylo. *mf*

1 *p* *mf* *p*

2 *pp* *mf* *pp*

3 *mp*

4 Bass Drum *mp* *f* *mp*

1x. Snaredrum
2x. Chinese Cymbal
Improvisate lightly with wire brushes maintaining a pulse

332 Narration continues through the entire repeated section.

Narr. Xavier brought all the instruments together in his neighborhood, and they helped him see that music is so much more than melodies and notes. Music is the best of everyone coming together! His song wasn't missing any notes, dynamics, or any fancy rhythms. It was missing new friends, and Xavier had finally found some good ones. Thank you for being our new friends today! You all have been an awesome audience to play for and we hope that one day soon you'll be playing along with us up here on stage! So have a great day and we'll see you again, over in Xavier's neighborhood!!

Xylo. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

1 *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

2 *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

3 *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

4 *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Xavier's New Friends

337

Xylo.

Bongos

1

2

3

Bass Drum

4

EE

342

Xylo.

1

2

Chinese Cym.

3

4

4